

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 13041 091826Z

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7812

INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, IN

SUBJECT: CHANGES IN UNION COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

SUMMARY: IN A MINOR CABINET RESHUFFLE, PRIME MINISTER GANDHI INDUCTED ONE NEW CABINET MEMBER AND REALLOCATED SEVERAL PORTFOLIOS. THE CHANGES MADE DO NOT AFFECT ANY POLITICALLY POWERFUL SENIOR MINISTER OR CHANGE THE POLITICAL COMPLEXION OF THE CABINET. ONE MIDDLE LEVEL MINISTER HAS LEFT AND TAKEN OVER AS UTTAR PRADESH CHIEF MINISTER, AND ANOTHER HAS BEEN DROPPED. ONE OR TWO MORE CHANGES ARE EXPECTED BUT NO MAJOR CABINET RESHUFFLE UNTIL NEXT YEAR. END SUMMARY.

1. THE PRIME MINISTER MADE MINOR CHANGES IN HER COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ON NOVEMBER 8 AND 9. FORMER UTTAR PRADESH CHIEF MINISTER KAMALAPATPZLHIPATHI BECOMES MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT. RAJ BAHADUR, WHO HELD THAT PORTFOLIO, MOVES TO THE COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY (THE FORMER MINISTER, H.N. BAHUGUNA, RESIGNED TO TAKE OVER AS CHIEF MINISTER IN UTTAR PRADESH FOLLOWING REVOCATION OF PRESIDENT'S RULE) AND HAS TEMPORARY CHARGE OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION. THE FORMER MINISTER OF TOURISM, DR. KARAN SINGH, HAS MOVED OVER TO BECOME MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING.

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PAGE 02 NEW DE 13041 091826Z

R.K. KHADILKA MOVES FROM HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING TO A

NEW MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION, FORMED BY THE ADDITION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REHABILITATION TO THE EXISTING MINISTRY OF SUPPLY.

SHAH NAWAEBKHAN, FORMERLY MINISTER OF SUPPLY, HAS BECOME MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS WHICH CONTINUES TO

BE UNDER OVER ALL CHARGE OF D.K. BAROOAH.

2. TWO MINISTERS OF STATE HAVE BEEN GIVEN INDEPENDENT CHARGE OF MINISTRIES: K. C. PANT, FORMERLY HOME AFFAIRS, IS NOW MINISTER FOR IRRIGATION AND POWER IN PLACE OF DR. K.L. RAO WHO HAS RESIGNED. PANT WILL ALSO CONTINUE TO ASSIST THE PRIME MINISTER IN PARLIAMENTARY WORK RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE. I. K. GUJRAL IS NOW MINISTER FOR INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING, A PORTFOLIO WHICH MRS. GANDHI PREVIOUSLY HELD.

3. COMMENT: THE CABINET RESHUFFLE WAS NECESSARY IN ORDER TO ACCOMMODATE TRIPATHI AFTER HE AGREED TO LEAVE UP AND COME TO THE CENTER. KARAN SINGH HAD ALSO WANTED TO MOVE FROM TOURISM AND AVIATION AND HIS PRESURE FOR A NEW PORTFOLIO ENABLED MRS. GANDHI TO SHIFT THE INEFFECTIVE KHADCKAR TO A MINOR POST. RAO'S RESIGNATION

IS REALLY A DUMPING BY MRS. GANDHI WHOM HAS BEEN MOST UNHAPPY WITH THE PROBLEMS IN THE AVAILABILITY OF POWER AND GIVES HER AN OPPORTUNITY

TO REWARD PANT, A CLOSE ASSOCIATE AND AN EXTREMELY COMPETENT ADMINISTRATOR. THE CHANGES THUS FAR DO NOT SIGNIFICANTLY CHANGE THE POLITICAL OR IDEOLOGICAL BALANCE WITHIN THE CABINET. THEY ALSO LEAVE UNTOUCHED ANY OF THE KEY MINISTRIES. THERE MAY BE ONE OR TWO MORE CHANGES IN THE WIND IN THE NEXT WEEK OR SO (MOST HEAVILY RUMORED IS APPOINTMENT OF FORMER ANDHRA PRADESH CHIEF MINISTER AND FINANCE COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BRAHMANANDA READY TO REPLACE THE LATE MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM AS MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES). BUT WE BELIEVE MRS. GANDHI WILL AVOID ANY FURTHER MAJOR SHIFTS IN THE CABINET NOW UNTIL NEXT YEAR, PERHAPS NOT UNTIL AFTER THE UP ELECTIONS IN FEBRUARY OR MARCH. MOYNIHAN

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TAGS: PINT, IN
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